

INSTRUCTIONS TO GUARDIANS OF MINORS

A guardian of a minor has the same powers and responsibilities as a parent, except that a guardian is not legally obligated to contribute to the support of the minor from the guardian's own funds. Proof of guardianship is shown by certified "Letters of Guardianship" which are issued by the court. Keep your Letters in a safe place and make copies to show to schools, doctors, etc., when necessary.

A guardianship remains valid even if you or the minor moves out of Arizona. Ending a guardianship requires a court order; you cannot simply quit and return the child to the parent(s). Your responsibility continues until the minor marries, dies or becomes 18 years old or until you are relieved of the responsibility by a court order.

A guardian has the power or duty to do the following things (the list does not include all powers and duties):

1. Make appropriate arrangements for the child's personal needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter. The child does not have to reside with the guardian.
2. Arrange for the child's education, social, and religious activities; authorize medical or other professional care, treatment or advice.
3. Consent (or refuse to consent) to marriage of the child; consent to the minor's obtaining a driver's license.
4. Take care of the child's personal effects and initiate a conservatorship if necessary to protect other property of the child. A conservator must be appointed through the court.
5. Receive money payable for the support of the child such as child support from the parent(s), public benefits, or money from private sources such as trusts. Any such sums must be used for the child's current needs for support, care, and education. Any excess funds must be conserved for the child's future needs. If the minor is entitled to receive more than \$10,000 per year, acquires land, or accumulates more than \$10,000 in excess funds, a conservator (often the same person as the guardian) should be appointed. Guardians or conservators must always keep the child's funds separate from their own, use them only for the child's expenses, and keep records of how the funds are used and invested.
6. Notify the court immediately if the minor(s) or your address changes.